

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, 16-19, 21, and 37-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-36 were examined. Claims 2, 3, 11, 15, 20, and 22-36 have been cancelled and new claims 37-51 added by amendment.

In the office action mailed October 19, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 12-14, 17-19, and 22-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0086441 to Meyer *et al.* (the "Meyer reference"). Claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 20, and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

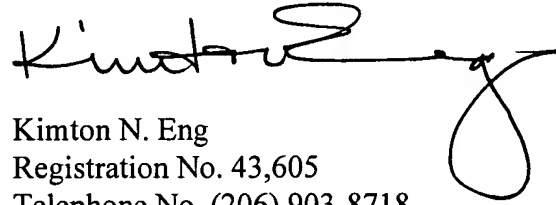
As previously mentioned, claims 22-36 have been canceled by amendment. The Examiner's rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 1, 8, 12, and 18 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable base claims 3, 11, 15, and 20, respectively. Consequently, claims 1, 8, 12, 18 are in condition for allowance. Claims 4-7, which depend from claim 1, claims 9 and 10, which depend from claim 8, claims 13, 14, 16, and 17, which depend from claim 12, and claims 19 and 21, which depend from claim 18 are in condition for allowance. Claims 37-51 have been added to claim the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 6, 16, and 21, along with corresponding dependent claims of the respective claim sets.

The Applicants' arguments for patentability of the unamended claims made in the previously submitted response are maintained. The amendments made to claims 1, 8, 12, and 18, however, have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicants have forfeited the subject matter of the unamended claims. Moreover, Applicants have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's arguments regarding the Applicants' previously submitted response or acknowledged the accuracy of the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:
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